

I am writing about MB Docket No. 04-233. I live in the Eugene-Springfield area of Oregon and am very concerned that either our Air 1 or K-Love radio stations will be taken off the air and the 2 translators that carry Air 1 and come in at 90.3 and 90.7 and the translator that carries K-Love at 100.9 will be replaced by some other kind of programming on an LPFM.

I have no idea what sort of national stations the bulk of translators carry - but I do know that Air 1 and its more adult counterpart, Klove, are not at all like any other radio stations - nationwide or local - I have ever come across in my life! I have traveled extensively across the country and listened to radio and even Christian radio since I was a young woman - and there are no other Air-1s or K-Love's. They simply could not be replaced!

How do Air 1 and K-Love serve the local residents of Eugene and Springfield?

By daily offering 24 hours of encouragement and reminders of God's love. K-Love is a more adult-oriented station. It encourages adults to keep their eyes on God and seek to obey Him by being kind and serving others, by being honest, by being better parents and workers and professionals and business owners, by being more like Jesus Christ in their attitudes and actions. Air-1 is more oriented toward teens and encourages teens to not to get involved with alcohol and drugs or pre-marital sex. It encourages them to seek to be more like Jesus Christ in the way they treat others. To be more respectful. It gives teens rock groups, rappers, and singers that are going to be good role models for them.

Where else can you find this? With what type of low-power FM's could you find this same sort of positive encouragement? With what would you replace them? With more stations for the young that play music that treats women as sex objects and glorifies drugs and drinking, womanizing, and gang shootings? With more stations on the dial for adults that tell us why we should hate and fear Mexicans....or educated women....or white males....or college professors at the U of O....or this group....or that group? Hate group of the week?

K-Love and Air-1 are forces that help people "come together" in unity and peace. Do you realize how rare that is? I say this as an evangelical Christian - but this is even rare on Christian radio stations. We need K-Love and Air-1. They are unique. They are a bridge over troubled waters. On Sept 11, when I was worried about the Tower Attacks, I immediately switched on K-Love - where I knew nobody would be shrilly looking for someone to blame, but I'd find people leading the nation in prayer to God - for peace and healing. I calmed down rather quickly - and it was in large part due to being able to connect with something that positive.

Furthermore, do you realize that K-Love and Air-1 (They are owned by the same place) are much more than just radio stations? They also have a free crisis hotline for kids and adults to call into for help. They have several pastors on staff that counsel and pray with troubled people on a daily basis. Frequently, they deal with people in the community that are suicidal. They counsel these people and connect them to churches in the local area.

It is expensive in any local community to fund suicide crisis centers, and youth runaway shelters, and to deal with teen pregnancies. But here in Eugene, we've been especially hard hit by the poor economy. First we were hit by the giant reduction in logging and timber jobs. And then we were hit by the dot com failures and the outsourcing of high-tech jobs to cheaper offshore labor. For

months, Oregon had the highest unemployment rates in the nation. We are still at #3.

This resulted in greatly decreased tax revenues and so our own local Lane County and cities of Eugene and Springfield have had to cut these sorts of services way back due to lack of state funds. Steep cuts were made in Public Safety and the Jail, Children & Families Programs, Public Health, Mental Health Services, Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services, A&D Treatment Services, Regional & Rural Economic Development, Juvenile Crime Prevention, the District Attorney's Office, and Developmental Disabilities services. The cuts were in the millions of dollars.

Troubled people are still being released on the streets. We have people in our local community who have no one else to turn to! Just this past Sunday, our local newspaper, The Register-Guard ran yet another story on all the battered women who struggle to break the cycle of domestic abuse.

Don't you think an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure? President Bush has said he wanted to include more "faith-based organizations" to offer services to people who need counseling and help. He was talking about giving them government funds to do this.

But Air 1 and K-Love don't even cost the Federal, State, or local Governments anything! Instead thousands of people like me send in donations to fund them on a monthly basis. K-Love and Air-1 are saving the local governments here in Eugene-Springfield money by giving people a place to call when they are troubled. A place where someone will pray with them, listen, and get them in touch with individual local churches that can help.

All they need is space on the air waves.

But unfortunately, the fact that these stations are supported by the donations that average citizens send in means that money is tight there. K-Love and Air-1 don't have the money to place full-power stations in every town. They run on shoestrings. They put low power translators in little tiny places like Eugene. If you replace their translator with some low-power FM, there will probably not be enough money to place a full-power station in here. We will just be forced to go without in this area. And it will be one more badly needed service that got cut.

I am one of those displaced high-tech workers. The past 5 years have been horrendous. I have been through downsize after closure after layoff after jobs shipped offshore. I have struggled off and on with deep depression.

But I always knew I could turn Air-1 and K-Love on to keep my spirits up. And that I wouldn't have to listen to other radio stations' graphic accounts of sleazy sexual innuendo nor a constant feed of comments and lyrics that tell me I'm a failure or that life is meaningless. The lyrics on other stations often just make you angrier about life. Air 1 and K-Love lift you up and help you keep going.

I honestly don't know what I would have done without these stations to keep me focused on God and Jesus Christ and His Word. Things have been so black the past few years. At one point, I sought counseling at one of the volunteer agencies. And my counselor remarked how, in spite of my temporary depression, that in the long run of things, I seemed to have some sort of positive input

that kept me keeping on to hope and have a positive outlook on life in the long run.

The man was right. The positive sources were Air-1 and K-Love.

And I hear person after person saying the same thing - how these stations encouraged them not to commit suicide, how it encouraged them to be patient in a difficult home situation, how it encouraged them not to fool around sexually as teenagers.

To sum up - these may be national stations. But they meet human needs that are universal in scope to all human beings. The need for positive input. The need to be encouraged to stay on the straight path. The need for hope. They are needed in our local area. They cannot be replaced.

Thank you for your consideration.